A meeting of the Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held at the Town Hall, Nuneaton, on Thursday 10th October, 2013.

Present

Councillor J. Glass – Chair
Councillor D. O’Brien – Vice Chair


Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S. Doughty and J. Foster.

217 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th August, 2013, be confirmed subject to the inclusion of apology of absence from Councillor D.C. Navarro.

218 Declarations of Interest

Councillor D. C. Navarro declared an Other Interest in any relevant item by reason of his appointment as a Non-Executive Director of the George Eliot NHS Trust.

219 Trees and Planning Policy

The Panel were asked to consider the role the Borough Plan plays in terms of protecting existing woodland and improving woodland cover, to identify any issues that they would like to consider further concerning trees and to note the approach proposed in the preferred Options Borough Plan.

Members asked various questions and the following concerns were raised:

- trees help to manage flooding, improve air quality and provide shade, and are issues that should be considered and built into any future developments.

- that residents do not want trees and hedgerows to be removed if possible when new development takes place.
that we need to be more pro-active in identifying funds for enhancement in localities. There has been funding in the past for planting schemes.

consideration must be given when funding is sourced for enhancement, as concern was expressed over section 106 monies.

that the planting of trees should be encouraged, but the species of tree needs to be carefully considered to try and alleviate problems in future years.

that established trees are sometimes cut down for development and replaced with trees that are too fragile and often don’t last.

will the planting of trees be paid for by the Developer.

that trees can often come into conflict with houses. An example was given of Greenmoor Road, Nuneaton where the tree roots are pushing up the pavement and are interfering with the wires running to people’s houses. It is hoped these issues will be taken into account when new trees are planted.

RESOLVED that

(a) Scrutiny Members note the approach proposed in the Preferred Options Borough Plan and that their concerns and comments be recorded, as stated above.

Speaker: Councillor K.A. Kondakor

220 Car Park Lighting

The Panel were asked to consider and discuss the information provided in Appendix A relating to the lighting within the Council’s surface level car parks and costs to replace traditional lighting units with LED equivalents.

RESOLVED that

(a) the Council change the car park lights to new LED equivalents when necessary repairs or changes are required;

(b) that this topic be reviewed again in two years time.
221 **Burial Land Allocation Review**

The Panel were asked to consider the recommendations put forward by the Working Party, relating to the allocation of burial land in the Borough, following a request from the Muslim Community.

**RESOLVED that**

(a) the item be deferred for further discussion pending the results of the bore hole testing;

(b) the Cemeteries Officer come forward with a proposed equitable formula for burial land allocation;

(c) site visits take place with faith groups to explore the allocation of burial land within the Borough and that the needs of all faith groups are considered in any future decisions.

**Speakers:** Mr. Yaseen Ahmedabadi - Nuneaton Muslim Society  
Mr. Osman Sheikh –representing the Nuneaton Khalifa  
Muslim Society.

222 **Work Programme 2013/14**

The Work Programme 2013/14 was presented to the Panel.

**RESOLVED** that the date of the meeting to discuss the Cemetery Bore Hole Testing be queried and confirmed with the Principal Democratic Services Officer (Committees) and Members informed of the date of the meeting.

223 **Any Other Items**

The Chair provided an update to the Panel on a Working Party Meeting he had attended at Warwickshire County Councillor with the Leader, Councillor Harvey, to express their concerns over the Civil Parking Enforcement Service and the poor service the Borough is currently receiving. The service is to be subject to a tendering process which will be taken to their Cabinet meeting on the 17th October 2013.

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Chair